

additional 970 acres near the sound. Guerard lived with his wife, Rebecca, on this property eventually called Sedgeley Abbey until his death in 1789. In his will, made on February 6, 1786, he left to Rebecca "the whole plantation, horses, hogs, sheep, household furniture, with all the lands containing 1,000 acres, also seventeen negro slaves." In 1790 Rebecca Geuard, the widow of John, entered into a marriage agreement with Peter Maxwell, "an English gentleman of wealth and refinement," and thus secured "the estate of the said Rebecca." Included in the agreement was "all that tract of land situated and lying at or near the head of the Sound in New Hanover county aforesd where John Geuard late of New Hanover county dec'd usually resided and at the present occupied by the said Rebecca Geuard." The plantation at which Rebecca and Peter planned to live contained approximately 1,600 acres. Peter Maxwell received a patent in 1796 for another 100 acres at the head of the sound. Peter Maxwell's holdings as a result of his marriage to Rebecca now "covered a vast tract of land which extended from the present Doctors Point on the east bank of the river, south to a small creek on the southern side of that ancient landmark and sand hill, the 'Sugar Loaf,' thence southeast to the Sea Beach, thence northwardly to his own northern line, thence westwardly to the head of Lord's Creek, continuing on to the beginning on the bank of the Cape Fear River." Both the Joshua Potts map of 1797 and the Price and Strother map of 1808 indicate the "Maxwell" dwelling in that section of the peninsula. Sedgeley Abbey is most closely associated with Peter Maxwell (Waddell 1989:68; Hall 1975:217-220; Sprunt 1896:50-51; McKoy 1973:31; New Hanover County Deeds, Books P-445; G-213; G-219; L-644; L-317).

Peter Maxwell maintained cultivated fields, as well as indigo farms, orchards, and even a horse track at Sedgeley Abbey for a number of years, although by 1801 he decided to place the plantation up for rent (McKoy 1973:120-121; Hall 1975:221; New Hanover County Deeds, Books L-1; P-329). The following description appeared in the Wilmington Gazette, of December 24, 1801:

To Rent - for a term of years, or may be agreed on. That fruitful, healthy and beautiful Plantation, near the head of the Sound, known by the name of Sedgeley Abbey for which there is a very commodious and well-furnished dwelling house, open to the sea beach by an avenue, and about half a mile from the Sound, which at all Seasons affords abundance of Fish and the best Oysters in the State. There is also on the same a good Kitchen, Smoke-house, Barn, Stable, and Chairhouse, with a remarkable fine Peach Orchard --- The land is well adapted to the culture of Corn, Cotton and Indigo, there is adjoining the house about 16 acres of rich inland swamp, which can be easily overflowed, much of which is cleared, and will produce excellent Rice. Whoever may rent the same can be accomodated with most kinds of plantation furniture, and supplied with any stock belonging to the land at a valuation. For terms apply in Wilmington to Peter Maxwell, (Wilmington Gazette, December 24, 1801).